

THE  
L I F E  
O F  
MOTHER GIN;

CONTAINING,

A true and faithful Relation of her Conduct and Politicks, in all the various and important Occurrences of State that she was engaged in during her Time; her Transactions with several eminent Patriots and great M———s; particularly, in the Four last Years of the late Q——n; with the secret Motives, and true Reasons of her Fall; and a Detection of the Views of the Authors of it.

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*By an Impartial Hand.*

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L O N D O N :

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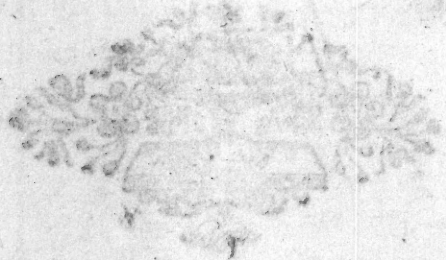
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# THE LIFE OF MOTHER GIN

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AS the Prosecution, or rather Impeachment of *Mother Gin*, is likely to make so considerable a Figure in the History of these Times, I thought I could not do a more grateful and seasonable Piece of Service to my Country, than in publishing the following Account of her; which the Reader may depend upon to be Genuine, for I had a long and intimate Acquaintance with her; I always lov'd her, and I have some Reason to flatter my self, that she was not wanting in Friendship and Esteem for me; and, perhaps, I had as good a Share of both as most of the Authors about this Town; though, indeed, she was very kind to all of the Profession; and



I really believe the World is obliged to her for many learned and ingenious Tracts, which would otherwise never have seen the Light.

Mother *Gin* was of *Dutch* Parentage; but her Father, who was a substantial Trader in the City of *Rotterdam* (one of the greatest Marts in *Europe*) being engag'd against the Faction of *De Wit*, when that Republick was under his Administration, was oblig'd to fly to *England* to avoid a Prosecution that he was threaten'd with, for knocking down one of the Deputies of the States as he was going into the *Stadt House*, to set his Hand to an *Edict* for taking off the Duty on *French Brandy*, which was intended as a Preliminary to a Treaty of Peace and Commerce, that was then in Agitation between *France* and *Holland*. This Incident exceedingly alarm'd the *Pensionary*, who finding that his late Measures, particularly his secret and clandestine Negotiations with *France*, had render'd him generally odious to the People, was under some Apprehensions, that this was only a Forerunner of his own Destruction, as indeed it prov'd, for he was soon after tore to Pieces by the Rabble at the *Hague*. A terrible Lesson to all Ministers, how they undertake any Thing in contradiction to the Humour and Disposition, or even Caprice of the Multitude; which ought always to be strictly observed and followed in all Affairs of State, whatever the Consequence may be to the Publick.

The Father of Mother *Gin* being thus drove into Exile, for the Zeal he shewed for the Liberties of his Country, contented himself, as became a wise and great Man, to yield to that Torrent which he could not resist: He saw with the deepest Concern, and Anguish of Mind,



Tyranny and arbitrary Power rushing in like an Inundation upon the seven Provinces ; but as he could not prevent the Ruin which threaten'd his Country, so he was determin'd never to be an Eye witness of it ; for which Reason he removed his Person, and such of his Effects as he could secure, and came to settle in *London*, where he liv'd a private Life, but in good Credit and Reputation ; and having acquir'd a handsome Fortune by his Industry he married an *English* Woman, and obtained an Act of Parliament for his Naturalization.

His Wife was of very mean and obscure Birth, insomuch that she was frequently reproached by those that were no Friends to her, with being sprung from the Dunghill, an Expression generally used to denote a Person of low Rank and Parentage ; however, she was a Woman of an exceeding high Spirit, and used to boast on such Occasions of some near Relations of hers, who lived in great Intimacy with several Ladies of the first Quality, who were extreamly fond of them, and were never so happy as when they were in their Company ; and as to *Mother Gin* her self, though she did not live in a constant Intercourse of Friendship with Persons of Fashion, yet she was often admitted into their Confidence, and was universally admired, and even idolized by the common People.

*Mother Gin* was the only Off-spring of the afore-mentioned Marriage: Her Father would have given her an Education suitable to his Rank and Station in the World, and have bred her up in the Way of high and polite Life, but her Mother would by no means consent to it ; she was of Opinion that such a fashionable Education corrupted the Morals more than it improv'd the Mind ;

Mind; that Persons of Quality had no more Knowledge and Understanding, and much less Virtue and Honesty than other People; and that they were generally of so little Use and Importance to the World; that their Time was continually spent in running round a Circle of empty, idle, dangerous, and expensive Pleasures.

When she was about the Age of five and Twenty her Father died, and her Mother did not long survive him: They were both buried in the same Grave in *Bunhill Fields*, for they were both *Dissenters*, and suffered much on account of their Principles in the Time of *Charles the Second*, which imbitter'd their Minds very much ever after against the Church of *England*, as approaching too near Popery in her want of Charity, and her Persecution of those that differ'd from her, though in Things allow'd by all not to be essential to true Faith and primitive Orthodoxy.

But the rigid and austere Doctrines of that Persuasion which the Parents profess'd did not at all suit the Constitution of the Daughter; she no sooner found her self at her own Liberty, but she left the *sober Party*, and as it has been often observed, upon the like Occasion, of several other *eminent Persons*, who were bred up in the same Principles, she became a zealous and violent Advocate for *High Church*; she distinguished her self particularly in the Cause of *Dr. Sacheverel*; and as she looked upon him as a Saint and a Confessor, she did that great and learned Divine many signal Services in the Time of his Trouble and Persecution; the Crouds of People that flocked round his Coach, to ask his Blessing, and defend his Person, during his Impeachment,



peachment, and when he went his Progress, were all moved and inspired to that pious Work by *Mother Gin*, which the Doctor always gratefully acknowledged; and which occasioned so strict an Intimacy, and so perfect a Friendship between her and the Doctor's Lady ever after, that nothing but Death could dissolve.

The good Services that *Mother Gin* did at this critical Conjunction very much contributed to the Change of the M——y, which followed soon after; and as those that succeeded in the A——n of Affairs were too wise and too penetrating, not to discern what Advantage it would be of to their Measures, to gain the Populace to their Side: they were very sensible they could not have a properer Instrument for that Purpose than *Mother Gin*; as those that become *Tories* in the Church do not long continue *Whigs* in the State, she did not require much Time to deliberate upon the Proposals that were made to her; she intirely approved the Scheme that was communicated to her, for repealing the Act of *Succession*, and restoring the Government to the same State that it was in before the *Revolution*, she thought that that Transaction could not be justify'd either from Scripture or the Laws of the Land, and believed that the Nation would never thrive till the Doctrines of *Passive Obedience* and *Non Resistance* were made Articles of our Faith.

The Gentlemen then at the Helm finding *Mother Gin* fall in so readily with their Sentiments, and way of Thinking, very rightly judged that they could not give a greater Weight and Credit to their Cause, and the Measures they were pursuing, than by taking her into a Share in the A——n; but the Man-  
per



ner in which that was to be done occasioned some Perplexity among them; they could not make her a Privy Counsellor, because the *Attorney General*, who was ordered to search Precedents for that purpose, had reported, that he could not find one Instance, since the Time of *Alice Pierce*, the Mistress of *Edward* the Third, where a Woman, that was only a Subject, was admitted to sit at that Board; and he deliver'd it as his Opinion, and laid it down for Law, that that was not a Precedent fit to be followed, but being a Person very skilful in his Profession, and perfectly well acquainted with the Duty of his Office, in order to comply with the Humour of his Masters, and to save his Place, which he might otherwise, perhaps, have been oblig'd to resign, he declared, that she might, notwithstanding be admitted of the *Cabinet Council*, there being many Instances of the like Kind in former Reigns, and accordingly she and another Lady were immediately sworn in Members of that Council, in which they sat, to the great Credit and Honour of those that placed them there, and to the Admiration of all the World besides, during the remaining Part of that Reign.

*Mother Gin* was a bitter Enemy to the Duke of *Marlborough*, he having always slighted and neglected her; but the illustrious Person that succeeded him courting her Favour, and professing an infinite Friendship and Esteem for her, she; to shew a reciprocal Affection, and Regard for that great General, was very desirous, when he was appointed to the Command of the Army in *Flanders*, to make the Campaign with him; but as a Peace was then concluded on, and the Army was not to enter upon Action, the M—y thought she would be more useful at home, to keep

keep up the Spirits of the People, which, without her Presence and Assistance, they knew would soon flag, and thereby, perhaps, endanger a total Defeat of all their Measures; for the whole Success of all their Projects and Schemes intirely depended upon her Authority and Influence, with those that are vulgarly called the Mob, and whose Motions, at that Time, absolutely regulated and govern'd the Conduct of the A——n.

It was with some Difficulty that she was persuaded to desist from her Design of taking a Tour into *Flanders*; but being convinced how fatal her Absence might prove to the Cause that she was engaged in, she at last yielded to the pressing Instances and Importunities of her Friends and Coadjutors in the M——y, and was prevailed with not to leave them in their Extremity, and when Affairs were just brought to a *Crisis*.

All Matters were come very near to a Conclusion, and the Friends of the M——y were preparing Songs of Triumph and Rejoicing, when an unexpected Stroak of Fate disconcerted all their Projects, and threw every Thing into the utmost Perplexity and Confusion.

It was now the *Whigs* Turn again to get uppermost, and the *Tories* began to dread the Consequences of their Resentment; however, the latter thought, if they could but secure *Mother Gin* in their Interest they had no occasion to despair, or to give up their Game absolutely for lost; they knew she was easily gained by a little Address and Management; that she was very susceptible of Flattery; that an obliging, condescending Behaviour, and a few fine Speeches, would easily prevail with her to de-



clare on their Side ; and that if they had her they were sure of the Populace, who, as they had found by Experience, would always go as she directed. Some of the leading Men among them immediately made Application to her, and they succeeded to their Wish ; she vow'd to live and die in their Cause ; and though some Overtures were made to her by the Court Party, yet her Inclinations were so strongly bias'd the other Way, that no Consideration of Interest or Advantage could prevail on her to change her Conduct.

As she was the principal Person who was trusted with the executive Part of all the Designs of the *Tories*, when they were in Power, so they had Recourse to her for the same Purpose now they were out : In all the Projects they concerted against the Government, they wholly relied upon her Assistance ; and though she had no good Head for Contrivance, yet she was admirable in the Execution, for she was bold, intrepid, and utterly insensible of Danger ; and indeed, one may venture to affirm, that she was the very Soul of her Party, which would have made no Figure at all, if it had not been for her, and which has always rose or sunk in proportion as the Credit and Authority of *Mother Gin* has advanc'd or declin'd.

It is an establish'd Maxim among all great Politicians, never to do that by themselves which they can do by their Instruments or Agents, if there may be any personal Danger or Hazard attending it. This Maxim was always very religiously observ'd by the Chiefs of *Mother Gin's* Party ; for whenever any bold and desperate Measures were necessary to be pursued, they very wisely kept themselves concealed  
till



till they saw how the Affair was likely to terminate ; if it succeeded, they assum'd the Credit, and took the Advantage of it all to themselves ; if it did not, as was generally the Case, they disavowed the Thing, imputed it all to the Folly and Indiscretion of *Mother Gin*, and left Two or Three of the most froward and busy of her Followers to be hanged, to accommodate the Matter and satisfy the Laws.

As *Mother Gin* was known to be the *Mouth* of a very numerous Party, both in Church and State, she made a very considerable Figure in all Transactions of a publick Nature, till the L ———e growing jealous of her Power, and being apprehensive lest she should assume to herself the sole Direction of all Affairs, Ecclesiastical, Civil, and Military, they passed a very severe and arbitrary Law, prohibiting her Followers, to the Number of Twelve, or more, from assembling, in a riotous and tumultuous Manner, under the Pain of Death; which amounted to the same Thing as restraining them from assembling at all; for how would these wise Lawgivers have the People assemble together, if they are not to do it in a riotous and tumultuous Manner? For my part I am at a Loss to guess; but as this is a Law which has been proved by the ingenious Authors of the *Craftsman* and *Fog's Journal*, to be directly contrary to *Magna Charta*, and in manifest Violation of the Liberties of the Subject, I intirely fall in with their way of Thinking, that little or no Regard ought to be had to it; and it is matter of Surprise to me, that after the strong and convincing Arguments those *illustrious Patriots* have brought to shew the Hardship and Grievance of such a Law, that any Obedience has been paid

to it ; though I must acknowledge, that in some late Instances it has been treated with all the Contempt it deserves, which must, in justice, be intirely attributed to the good Effects their Writings have had.

But we find from the Experience of all Ages, that all Governments and States have always made it a Point, on some frivolous Pretence or other, to ruin those who have appear'd in the Cause of the People, though with ever so much Reason and Justice on their Side ; for such popular Qualities *Themistocles* and *Coriolanus* were drove into Exile, *Phocion* was poisoned, and *Manlius Capitolinus* thrown from the *Tarpeian Rock* ; for this Reason I could wish Mr. *D'Anvers* and Mr. *Fog*, two Patriots equal in Name and Renown with any I have mention'd, would act with a little more Caution and Circumspection, in the great Designs they are carrying on for the Good of the People, in whose Hearts and Affections they bear so eminent a Place, as cannot but give the utmost Fear and Jealousy to a weak and tottering *A———n*, who having the Foot Guards, and the *Westminster Militia* at their Command, may be provoked, by Resentment and Despair, to do some extraordinary Act of Violence upon the Persons of those great and distinguished Patriots ; and how would all good Men grieve, and all ill ones rejoice, to see those noble Assertors of Liberty looking through a Grate in the *Gate House*, or beating Hemp in *Bridewell* ?

But to return to that Law against *riotous and tumultuous Assemblies*, as by way of Reproach the Meeting of the People to defend their just Rights, is falsely denominated ; a Law which has given such great and reasonable Offence to

all true Patriots and Lovers of Liberty, that they date the Destruction of the Constitution from that Day in which it passed; I say, this *Law* was levell'd chiefly at *Mother Gin*; for since she could by no means be prevail'd on to fall in with the Measures of the M——y, they were resolved to put it out of her Power to do any important Service for their Enemies: But before the L——e had taken such an extraordinary Step as this, I think it would have become them to have considered, that the Disposition and Inclination of the People ought to be consulted before any Law is made; and that it is against the natural Rights of Mankind to be compelled to pay Obedience to any Laws which they do not approve of. Now the L——e must have been conscious to themselves at the Time of making the *Riot Act*, as this Law is called, that from the very Nature and Design of such a Law it could never meet with the Approbation of the People, as it so evidently tended to abridge them of their most dear and valuable Privileges; for has it not been the known Right of the People of *England*, Time out of mind, to assemble together in what Numbers they please? And being so assembled to do such Acts and Things for the Reformation of the State, or the Punishment of wicked and corrupt Ministers, as to them, in their great Wisdom, should seem meet? And what Justice can we expect to be done upon great and overgrown Offenders, if the People are restrain'd from the Exercise of that Power, which so manifestly belongs to them, and which they have always executed with so much Prudence, Moderation, and Impartiality? To make it Felony without Benefit of Clergy therefore, for the People, in  
their



their collective Body, to hang a M——r of State in Effigy, or to set Fire to a Dissenting Meeting House, or to pull down a *Turnpike*, are such Steps towards arbitrary Power, and indeed so contrary to natural Justice, that all good Patriots are of Opinion, that they might, with as much Reason and Equity, make a Law to hang a Man for hollowing at a Bonfire.

*Mother Gin* being thus restrained from acting according to the Dictates of her Conscience, by so severe and penal a Statute, seldom appear'd in publick Affairs, except in Elections for Members of — — —, and such extraordinary Occasions, in which she was always of great Service to the *Country Party*, which is the Name that those uncorrupt Patriots, and zealous Friends to Liberty, the *Tories*, chuse now to distinguish themselves by; and it was principally through her Influence, that all the leading Men among them were chose; for though she was not qualified, according to the strict Letter of the Law, to vote, yet, as she thought that all the People of *England* had a natural Right to give their Suffrages for their own R — — —, which is a Right antecedent to all Laws, and of which no Law can deprive them, she not only voted herself, but also exerted all her Power and Authority to prevent others from voting who had a Right, if such Persons were not in the Interest of her Party; by which means several honest Gentlemen in the Country Interest got return'd by a considerable Majority, who must otherwise have infallibly lost their Elections by a much greater Majority.

Besides these great and important Services which *Mother Gin* did, in the Instances that have been mention'd, she was likewise very instrumental

mental in defeating that abominable Scheme for laying an Excise on Wine and Tobacco, which, if it had taken effect, must have immediately ruined the Nation, those Commodities being generally esteem'd, especially since that wicked Attempt was made, among the common Necessaries of Life, and as such, instead of being excised, ought to be free from all Duties and Subsidies whatever, and an additional Tax laid upon Land, to make up the Deficiency; but *Mother Gin*, bound down and fetter'd as she was, by the disabling Clauses in the above-mentioned Statute, determined, let the Consequence be never so fatal to her self, to break through all Ties and Restraints upon that extraordinary Emergency, and either to vindicate the Liberties of her Country, in such imminent Danger, from that pernicious Project, or to perish with them. Accordingly she discovered an uncommon Spirit and Resolution during the Course of that Transaction; to shew that she defy'd the Power as much as she despised the Malice of her Enemies, she tore the *Riot Act* to pieces, and distributed them to the worthy Citizens that were in her Train to light their Pipes with, and then led them on with the utmost Intrepidity, and the noblest Contempt of the Laws, her old and declared Enemies, to *Westminster*, where that destructive Scheme was then under Consideration; but as soon as she came to back and support her Friends that were against the Bill, the other Party visibly diminished, and several who were Well-wishers to the Scheme were so intimidated by her Presence, that they never appear'd more during the Debate. Thus the Project was dropp'd, to the Shame and Confusion of those  
that

that contriv'd it, and to the immortal Honour of *Mother Gin*.

It was a general receiv'd Notion before this Time, propagated especially with great Industry by the ministerial Writers, to serve the Purposes of those that paid them, that the collective Body of the People had no right to controul the Debates, or in any manner whatever to interfere in the Acts or Designs of their Representatives, but that having chose fit Persons for that Trust, they had devolved their whole Power upon them, and were oblig'd to acquiesce in every Thing they did, and were absolutely bound thereby, every Act of theirs being in the Understanding of the Law consider'd as their own; and that if the Conduct of the Representatives were not such as the Electors approv'd of, the latter had no Remedy, till the Expiration of the P——, and then they might, if they pleas'd chuse others in their Room.

But these slavish and infamous Opinions were very justly exploded by the Authors of the *Craftsman*; they deduc'd their Arguments from the Fountain-head, and with great Accuracy and Clearness, first shewed the Nature and Design of Government in general, and then proceeded to explain that of our own Country in particular, which they very fully proved to be founded upon the most extensive Principles of Liberty, and produc'd innumerable Instances to shew, that Liberty flourish'd in the highest Perfection from *William* the Conqueror to *Queen Elizabeth*; that it has indeed been declining ever since, but that so much of our *ancient Constitution* still remains as suffices to evince, that



that Princes are no more than the Servants or Ministers of the Publick ; that as all Power was originally derived from the People, so it finally center'd in them, and that they in their *collective Body* were the supreme Sovereign Jurisdiction of the Nation, to which all other Powers were subordinate, and to whom, when any *competent Number* of them were assembled together, not only the King and his Ministers, but likewise both Houses of P——t, were accountable for their Conduct, for any Errors or Miscarriages in which, they might be punish'd in a summary Way, without those tedious Forms which other Methods of Trial and Parliamentary Impeachments are subject to.

These Facts were so self-evident, and the Reasonings upon them so clear and unanswerable, that *Molber Gin*, who formerly was a zealous Assertor of the Divine Right of Kings, became now convinc'd of the Divine Right of the People, and thought there could not be so fortunate a Conjunction to reduce the Principles of those illustrious Writers into Practice, as that in which the Scheme that has been mention'd above was to be introduced into the World ; the Spirits of the People being rais'd to a proper Height by the Representations that had been given of that Project, in the Writings of those Gentlemen, and therefore they resolv'd to embrace that favourable Opportunity to rouse the Genius of a free People, to reassume their native Dignity and Authority, and assert those Rights and Powers to which they were born, but which Debts and Taxes, and the miserable Slavery the Nation has groan'd under, ever since the Revolution, had almost worn out of their Remembrance.

And indeed the Majesty of the People of *England* never appear'd with greater Splendor than it did upon this Occasion; that glorious Concurrence of Tobaccoists and Vintners, Common Council Men, and Aldermen of *London*, that throng'd *Westminster Hall*, the *Court of Requests*, and all the Avenues and Passages leading to the House of Commons, will continue an illustrious Example to all Ages of the sovereign Power of the People in their *collective Body* assembled, and at the same Time a noble Instance of their Wisdom, Temper, and Moderation, in not turning their Representatives out of Doors, resuming the Authority they had delegated to them, and taking the Government of the Nation upon themselves.

Of *all* the Patriots that the present Age has produced in our Country (and sure no Age or Country could ever boast of more) *Mother Gin* deserves to be placed the foremost in that illustrious List: It was she saved the Nation in the Reign of the late Q — n, of blessed Memory, by supporting the new M — y in delivering us from a bloody and consuming War, which would infallibly have ruin'd us, if it had been carried on for one Campaign more; it was she saved the Church by protecting Dr. *Saobeverel*, and inspiring the People to pull down the Dissenting Meeting Houses; those Nests of Schism and Sedition! It was she made all the glorious Struggles in the last Reign for restoring the Royal Family of the S — rts to the Throne of their Ancestors, which the Iniquity of the Times had most unjustly depriv'd them of; it was she that preserved us from the fatal Effects of an Excise on *Wine* and *Tobacco*; which was the most dangerous Attempt that ever was made

to destroy the Liberties of *Britain*; and lastly, it is she that has been the chief Prop and Support of the *Country Party*, which has distinguished it self so gloriously in the Cause of Liberty, during the present *A———n*, and which would inevitably have brought about a total Change and Revolution in the *G———t*, if a standing Army had not been continually kept up to awe and intimidate those brave and disinterested *Patriots* who were engag'd in that great and laudable Design; the *M———y* being appriz'd that *Mother Gin* had taken such an irreconcilable Aversion to standing Armies, from the dangerous Consequences she apprehended from them to her Country, that no Consideration could prevail upon her to appear in any Undertaking of the least Consequence, if she heard but the Bounce of a Firelock, or the Beat of a Drum.

Every one knows what a just and wise Opposition has been given to the Measures of the present *M———y* for above these ten Years past, as well in Speeches and Debates, as in Pamphlets, Journals and Ballads; Speeches and Pamphlets may be answered by other Speeches and Pamphlets, but I think there is no answering a Ballad; the Strength of the Opposition therefore, lay chiefly in their Ballads; the Words were generally writ by some *Patriot* of eminent Note, but the Composure and the Musick were the Province that was assign'd to *Mother Gin*: As soon as they were distributed to her from the Press she sung them to the People; this improved them in Politicks, and gave them a proper insight into the Conduct of the *M———y*; all Affairs both foreign and domestic were communicated to them in this Man-

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ner; there was not an Act of Parliament passed, nor an Ambassador sent abroad, nor a Squadron of Ships fitted out, nor a Bishop installed, nor a Maid of Honour found tripping, nor a Treaty of Peace, nor a Tale at the Drawing Room, but it was immediately made the Subject of a *Ballad*.

As the Tory Schemes and Politicks had for some Time been generally exploded from their ill Success, and perhaps from the Mismanagement of those that had the Conduct of them; and as the Principles of Liberty universally prevailed, it was necessary for the Leaders of that Party to suspend their high flown Notions for a while, and to pretend a flaming Zeal for the Rights of the People; instead therefore of giving an unlimited Power to the Crown, as they would formerly have done, they were now for taking all the Power of the Crown away; and since they could not have a King of their own chusing they were not for having any King at all; they acted on all publick Occasions in perfect Concert with known profess'd Republicans, and avowed Enemies to Monarchy, and the latter placed a reciprocal Confidence in them; and however wide and different from one another their Notions were in other Respects, they intirely agreed in this, that no Government should ever be quiet, or free from Attacks and Embarrassments, till they were taken into the Administration of it.

*Molter Gin* did not intirely approve this motly, unnatural Union and Conjunction of her old Friends the *Tories*, with her old Enemies the *Whigs*, and therefore she was not at first so warm and cordial in their Measures, as they endeavoured to make the World believe, it was with

great

great difficulty that she was brought to concur in them; they were obliged to try every Art and Method before they could compass so considerable a Point; they represented to her the declining State of the Nation, through the bad Conduct and ill Policy of the M——y; that we had made innumerable Alliances, and yet had no Allies; that we had been at extraordinary Expences in fitting out Fleets, and yet that they never were sent any further than *Spit-head*, though during the Time that they lay there they might have made a Voyage round the World; and, perhaps, have conquer'd half of it; that though we kept up a standing Army, yet we never suffer'd them to fight, for fear of spoiling their Cloaths; that we frequently encamped them in *Hyde Park*, to strike a Terror into the *Patriots* that met in *Dover* and *Arlington* Streets, to consult about the Good of their Country; and that there was a strong Garrison continually upon Duty in the *Tower* to awe the City; that we had many Taxes, but no Money to pay them with; that Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Brandy and Rum, and the other Necessaries of Life, were subject to the Laws of *Excise*; that if there was no Duty upon Bread, it was because that such a Duty would only affect the Rich, and those that had Places in the Government, for that no body else had any Bread to eat. That the Courtiers spent the Nation's Money upon *French Tumblers* and *Italian Singers*, while the Authors and Actors of good *English* Tragedies and Comedies were suffered to starve; that Bribery and Corruption were arrived to such an exorbitant Height, that very few Gentlemen of the *Country Party* had ready Money enough to purchase a Borough, and therefore,

though

though they had a *natural Interest* in the Place, yet they were under a Necessity of incumbering their Estates, in order to serve their Country in P——t; that after they had been at a vast Expence for that Purpose, they were not able at last to do any Service at all, because every Thing was carried by a Majority; which Majority was manifestly in the Interest of the M——y; that the Country Party were quite tir'd with serving the Publick for nothing; that the Nation would be absolutely undone if there were not an immediate Change of M——y and Measures; and that the only Hopes they had left to accomplish so desirable a Point, were in such a Coalition of the *Patriots* with the *Tories*.

Besides these Arguments and Motives that were made use of to prevail with *Mother Gin* to approve of this *Coalition*, she was given privately to understand by some of her Friends among the *Tories*, that they had at the Bottom of their Hearts as implacable an Aversion to these *Patriot Whigs*, their Schemes and Principles, as she her self could have; and that, though the Necessity and Circumstances of their Affairs had for the present united them together in one common Band of Alliance, in order, by such a Conjunction, to make their Opposition to the M——y the more formidable, yet as soon as their own particular Views were served, and that they had by the Means of their new Friends accomplish'd their Designs, they intended to shake them off, and leave them where they found them; that is, grumbling, discontented *Whigs* still; for though they might make use of them as Tools and Instruments to work themselves into Power, yet when once they had obtain'd the



the Prize that they contended for, it was never their Intention to let them have the least Share in it; for when the Structure was rais'd there was no further Occasion for the Scaffolding; that if their Designs succeeded *Mother Gin* should be restor'd to all her ancient Rights and Privileges; the Riot Act should be repealed, and she should have as much Power and Influence as ever in the Government of the Nation.

These were the secret Reasons which induced *Mother Gin* to fall in with the *Patriots*, though those Gentlemen have valued themselves exceedingly upon the great Regard and Veneration that she had for them, and have in their Speeches and Writings always boasted of her pretended Attachment to them as of the Voice of the People declaring in their Favour; and they have accordingly taken all Opportunities to pay extraordinary Court to her, in order to establish themselves in her good Graces; all that they ever said, or writ, or did, was intirely calculated to please and ingratiate themselves with her; they complimented her upon her Power, her Wisdom, her Prudence, her nice Way of judging and distinguishing of Things; her unbiaſſed Justice, and profound Knowledge in chusing her Magistrates, Ministers, and Representatives; who were always Persons of the highest Eminence for their Virtue, Integrity, and Abilities; that she was always right when she followed her own Opinion and Judgment, and never wrong, but when, through Accident, or want of Attention, she suffer'd her self to be misled by the fallacious Arts, and false Insinuations of others; that she never prais'd or censur'd but where Praise or Censure was due; that her Opinion was the only true Test of Merit;

that

that in that Scale every Man's Conduct and Deportment ought to be weighed; that the highest Magistrates and greatest Officers of State were only Servants to her; and that even Princes themselves were accountable for their Actions at her Tribunal.

These excessive Praises which the *Patriots* bestowed on *Mother Gin*, it must be acknowledged, made some Impressions upon her; and she, now and then in return, made some little Efforts to serve them; but the most incurious Observer might easily perceive, they were cold and languid, and that her Heart, notwithstanding, was never intirely with them, unless it was when she imagin'd, that by giving some Countenance to the *Patriots* in any particular Transaction, she should procure some considerable Advantage to the *Tories*; she never approved the loose Principles, and the various, uncertain Conduct of the former; she thought those that through any little trifling Dissatisfaction or Disgust would desert and betray their own Party could never be faithful to another; she looked upon their Animosity and Opposition to the M——y, to be the effect of personal Pique and Spleen, that tho' Patriotism and Publick Spirit were the Pretence, yet that disappointed Ambition, and the Desire of Power, were the real Motives of their Defection; and she was confirm'd in this Opinion by an Observation she had made, that those very Persons who were the loudest in their Exclamations against the present A———n, had been themselves the most zealous Promoters of those Counsels and Measures which they now condemned. She knew the M——y was absolutely a *Whig M——y*, that they proceeded in all their Views, Designs and Actions, intirely

ly upon *Whig Principles*, and she thought it ridiculous and absurd, that Men who always were, and still professed to be of the same Principles, if they were in earnest, and really meant what they said, could be so violent in their Resentments about the *Means*, since they agreed so well as to the *End*; unless the Dispute was purely of a private Nature, as she sincerely believed it to be, and that the Opposition of the *Patriots* was not at all how the Affairs of the Nation should be administer'd, but who should have the Administration of them; and she imagined, that the strange Inconsistency and Contradiction that appeared in the Conduct of those Gentlemen could not be otherwise reconciled to common Sense; but that, if it was as she conjectur'd, all the Difficulty vanish'd immediately; the Warmth and Passion they discovered upon all Occasions against the Measures of the Government were clear and easy to be accounted for; and that it was manifestly no more than a personal Quarrel, and a Contention for Power, in which, as the Nation had no Concern, the People had no Occasion to interest themselves in it.

Though as I have observ'd before, the *Patriots* were extreemly fond to have *Mother Gin* thought to be of their Side, and engaged in their Measures, yet the Coldness and Indifference with which she treated them, gave them Grounds to believe, that they could have no Dependance upon her, any further than as they were united in Interest with the *Tories*; and that if any Breach or Difference should happen among them, she would certainly join with the latter; they knew at the same Time, that if they lost *her*, they must, by a necessary Consequence,



quence, lose what they called the *Voice of the People*, which was intirely under her Influence and Direction; and from which they had receiv'd very considerable Advantage, in all their popular Meetings, Elections, and Rejoicings, particularly in the two Cities of *London* and *Bristol*; not only famous for their great Wealth and extensive Commerce, but most justly to be admired for the decent and modest Deportment of their Inhabitants, and the Regularity and good Order of their Government.

But notwithstanding the Services that *Mother Gin* had occasionally done the *Patriots*, or might be capable of doing for the future, yet as they were very well assured, that what she had done did not proceed from any real Regard or Affection for them, and that, though they had her Voice, yet they had not her Heart; and besides, not being secure of her Friendship, they were afraid of her Enmity, if the Circumstances of Affairs should ever tempt *her* to turn against them, which was not an unlikely Thing to happen; and likewise wisely considering that in such case, the more powerful she was, as an Ally, the more formidable she would be as an Adversary; and upon the whole Matter ballancing the Good she had done them, against the Evil she might do them, they thought it the most prudent and adviseable Measure, since she was not a Friend to be rely'd on, to put it out of her Power to be an Enemy to be fear'd, and therefore they resolved to rid their Hands of her at once, and to sacrifice her to their own Safety and Reasons of State.

There was among the *Patriots* a very sage, grave, and venerable Person, eminent above all  
for

for his Virtue, Justice and Integrity, of the most consummate Wisdom and Experience in Affairs, free himself from Passion, Pride, Vanity, Avarice, and all the other Frailties and Imperfections incident to human Nature, and yet mild and indulgent to the Vices, Weaknesses and Follies of others; of a Disposition so amiable and benevolent, that he was never seen to frown, and at the same Time so composed and serious that he was never known to smile; austere and rigid to himself, but kind and benevolent to all the World beside; his Temper was always even, his Soul was always open; he was blessed with great Riches, but his Liberality was more extensive than his Wealth: He was a severe Monitor to the Great and Powerful, if they wander'd at any Time out of the Road of Virtue; but easy to be reconciled, and to forgive their past Errors and Miscarriages, when they returned into it again; he was never to be biaased in his Conduct by Interest, Prejudice, Friendship or Alliance; he always acted with Impartiality, and therefore whenever he was mistaken in his Judgment, he was not ashamed to own it, and to retract his Opinion.

To this venerable *Nestor* of the Age, as wise, and almost as old as he we read of in *Homer*, a select and chosen Number of *Patriots* had recourse, to receive his Advice and Directions concerning the Prosecution of *Mother Gin*: They were beginning to open to him the State and Nature of the Case, and to explain to him the Reasons that determin'd them to such a Proceeding; but he presently stopp'd them short, would not suffer one of them to speak a Word,

but took up the Argument himself; run through every Thing that could be said on both Sides of the Question; consider'd it in every Light, weigh'd every Circumstance, debated the Matter over and over again, I mean with himself, for every body else was obliged to be dumb; one while he doubted whether it was a right Measure or no, then he was positive that it was; immediately after he was positive that it was not; then he doubted again, then he was positive again; sometimes he thought it a Matter of the greatest Nicety and Difficulty, at another Time he looked upon it to be so clear and plain that it did not require a moment's Deliberation; now he absolutely refused to have any Share or Concern at all in the Affair; now he resolved to take the whole Conduct and Management of it upon himself; and after changing his Opinion twenty different Times, he at last determin'd on nothing.

The worthy Patriots, who were heartily vex'd with seeing the Person that they promised themselves the chief Assistance from, so very uncertain and irresolute, were at a Loss how to demean themselves under such critical Circumstances; if they differ'd from him in any particular Point, he contradicted them; if they agreed with him, he contradicted himself; but they were obliged to express their Approbation or Dislike in *dumb Shew*, for he would not suffer them to speak; for if any one endeavour'd to open his Lips, he immediately injoin'd him silence; if he presum'd to offer any Reasons, he answer'd them before he heard them; they therefore concluded, that it would be the best Way to let him go on till he was tired, and when



when he could talk no longer himself they imagin'd he would hear what they had to say.

But they were mistaken in their Conjecture ; he would not give them an Opportunity to put in one Word, though they had many Things to offer, to shew him the Reasonableness and Necessity of what they propos'd, and that either the Nation or *Mother Gin* must be ruin'd, but still continuing his Discourse ; “ *Gentlemen*, says he, This is an Affair of great  
“ Weight and Difficulty ; I have turned it  
“ every Way in my Mind ; and the more I  
“ consider it, the more Doubts I have about  
“ it ; 'tis of too much Importance either to be  
“ hasten'd or delay'd ; we cannot take too  
“ much Time before we come to any Resolution ; and yet we cannot resolve too soon ; I  
“ have heard, with great Attention, what you  
“ have said for it ; I have weigh'd very  
“ well what others may say against it ; I must  
“ do you the Justice to say, that you have  
“ put your Arguments in the strongest Light ;  
“ and I must do my self the Justice to say, that  
“ I have done the same by theirs who may be  
“ against the Measure that you now propose ;  
“ but I am far from being convinced either by  
“ your Reasons or my own ; if you have urged  
“ many Things of weight in support of your  
“ Side of the Question, I have encounter'd  
“ them with Things of full as great Weight  
“ that might be urged of the other Side of the  
“ Question ; in this I have acted with that  
“ Candor and Impartiality which always has  
“ been, and always shall be the Rule of my  
“ Conduct ; but I should deviate egregiously  
“ from that Rule, if I should determine before  
“ I

" I am convinced ; which is what you seem to  
 " be endeavouring to make me do ; but as I  
 " am not to be bias'd by Prejudice, Affection  
 " or Interest, so I am not to be imposed upon  
 " by false Glosses, artful Insinuations, and the  
 " Vanity of popular Applause ; Truth, Ju-  
 " stice, and Reason, are my Guides, and them  
 " alone I will follow ; if through want of  
 " Judgment, or want of Attention, I mistake  
 " at any Time, I am not ashamed to acknow-  
 " ledge my Error ; for it is an established  
 " Maxim with me, that he who will not own  
 " himself to be in the Wrong, when he really  
 " is so, does not know, or does not care when  
 " he happens to be in the Right : As this is a  
 " Principle that I have laid down, and shall al-  
 " ways observe, so upon this Principle I think  
 " I may safely concur with you in the Prosecu-  
 " tion of *Mother Gin* ; for though I am not sa-  
 " tisfied that such a Prosecution is to be justi-  
 " fy'd ; yet I am as far from being satisfy'd  
 " that it is not ; I am therefore for proceeding  
 " against her immediately with all imaginable  
 " Vigor ; if afterwards, upon mature Delibe-  
 " ration, it should appear to me that I have  
 " been mistaken, I shall be very ready and  
 " willing, in the Face of the whole World, to  
 " confess my Error.

The *Patriots* having obtain'd their Point, made  
 their Obedience and departed, leaving it to him  
 to reconcile his Principles and his Conduct to his  
 Conscience, as well as he could ; for as to their own  
 Parts, it was the constant Practice with them,  
 in every Thing they undertook, first to com-  
 plete their Work, and to consider of Reasons  
 for justifying it, after it was done. Thus was  
 the

the Ruin of *Mother Gin* resolved on; and may her Fate be an Example to all *Patriots*, how little Reliance is to be had upon the Voice or Affections of the People, in the Day of Trouble and Adversity; for though no Person in our Time ever had so large a Share of popular Love and Esteem as she could boast of, yet she was suffer'd to fall a Sacrifice to her Adversaries, without one Hand lifted up, or even one Tongue to speak in her Defence.

*F I N I S.*

